

WEST DES MOINES BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Thursday, December 3, 2015

The regular meeting of the West Des Moines Bicycle Advisory Commission was called to order on Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. by Steve Gatton.

Commission	Joel Wolcott	Brittany Freund	Kip Albertson	Helen Eddy	Steve Gatton
Present	X	X			X
Commission	Margaret Christiansen	Spencer Cox	AJ Kelley	Greg France	
Present	X	X		X	

Staff	Gary Scott <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Sally Ortgies <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Susan Mathews <i>Parks & Recreation Administrative Secretary</i>	
Present	X	X	X	
Staff	Joe Cory <i>Deputy Director of Public Works</i>	Duane Wittstock <i>City Engineer</i>	Eric Petersen <i>Traffic Engineer</i>	Greg Hansen <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>
Present	Left at 5:50pm		X	

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by France to approve the agenda as presented. Christensen seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No items.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of October 1, 2015 Meeting

It was moved by France to approve the minutes as presented. Wolcott seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 4. Old Business

No items.

New Business:

On Item 5A. Motion – Recommendation to City Council – Regulatory Signage on Trails

Scott noted that the established neighborhood surrounding a proposed development at EP True Parkway and 26th Street brought up the issue of a trail crossing they perceive as unsafe. Scott noted that the visibility at the intersection is very good but that the residents see bicycles that do not stop for cars. As a solution, it was suggested by Councilman Trimble that signage be placed on the trail. Staff researched other local communities and has found a lack of consistency in the use of regulatory signage on trails. Scott noted that the WDM City Code dictates that a bicycle on the street shall be treated as a motor vehicle and is required to obey traffic laws. He added that a bicycle on the trail shall be treated as a pedestrian and should have the right of way. Scott stated that staff would recommend no changes to the current policy until such a time that the MPO would determine a metro-wide policy. France suggested that in other locations where there are potential dangers there could be signage installed on both the trail and on the street. Freund suggested that the goal should be to educate the public and that even informal signage as a reminder to slow down or be cautious might help. Petersen noted that all signs on streets would have to meet a national standard. Ortgies reminded the Commission that putting up signage would also require a change in the City Code and that there would need to be enforcement.

It was moved by Christensen to recommend to City Council that no additional regulatory signage be placed at this location or along trails at this time. Freund seconded. Motion carried.

On Item 5B. Motion – Recommendation to City Council – Approval or Denial of Buffered Bike Lanes on Ashworth Road west of Jordan Creek Parkway.

Petersen stated that the design phase of Ashworth Road from Jordan Creek Parkway west to 81st Street is currently underway and construction is set to begin next summer. Petersen added that if bike lanes were to be considered that buffered bike lanes would be recommended due to the speed and volume of traffic on the roadway. He noted that the road will be widened from the current rural two lane road to a four lane urban roadway with left turn lanes, a side path trail on the north side of the road and a sidewalk on the south side of the road. He added that staff analysis revealed that the buffered lanes would add an additional 16 feet of pavement and right-of-way at an additional cost of \$521,000 for this section alone. Petersen noted that adding buffered bike lanes to future sections of the roadway west to 98th Street would be an additional cost of approximately \$3 million. He added that the overall impact of adding buffered bike lanes is about a 20% increase in the cost of the project. Some additional impacts to consider include the impact on homeowners, the removal of several mature trees and some new landscaping, as well 1,800 feet of water main and utilities that will need to be relocated. Petersen shared that based on the impacts and the fact that a side path trail is already included in the project staff are recommending that buffered bike lanes are not pursued for this project. Cox stated that he lives in that area and that he agrees that the trail is sufficient. The Commission discussed the trail and eventual bridge crossing over I-80.

It was moved by France to recommend City Council deny buffered bike lanes on Ashworth Road west of Jordan Creek Parkway. Cox seconded. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

On Item 6A. Engineering

Petersen shared that the new Grand Prairie Parkway interchange is now open.

On Item 6B. Public Works

No additional items.

On Item 6C. Police

No representative present.

On Item 6D. Parks and Recreation

Director of Parks & Recreation

Scott shared that there will not be an Earth Day event in Valley Junction this year so publicity for the May 14 Mayor's Bike Ride will be handled in other ways. He stated that Ann Shuman will design a bike jersey for the event to be sold at cost. Scott added that the WDM Chamber of Commerce will partner with the City to administer the Corporate Cup Challenge and will promote the event. Additionally, eight elementary schools will compete for participation cash prizes potentially funded by a Community Enrichment Foundation grant.

Superintendent of Parks

Ortgies stated that the new section of trail along Ashworth between Prairie View Drive and 60th Street is now open. Ortgies informed the Commission that Parks staff have combined snow removal efforts with Public Works and asked that if any problem areas are noticed to please contact staff.

Other Matters:

On Item 7A. Action Items

France asked if the City ever applies for grant funding. Scott responded that the City applies for grants in certain situations such as a complete streets grant that was recently completed for sharrow painting.

Scott added that currently the City does not have outstanding trail projects that would qualify but that the eventual greenway along Sugar Creek would be project large enough to justify grant funding. France asked about the estimated reopening of the 60th Street trail north of Ashworth Road to Westown Parkway and noted that the trail detour signs are misleading. Scott responded that the closure is due to a DOT project at the I-80 overpass. Ortgies added that she believes that the project may be complete or very nearly complete.

Receive, File and/or Refer:

8A. Des Moines Area MPO, Central Iowa Bicycle-Pedestrian Roundtable Packet – October, November

It was moved by Christensen to adjourn at 6:23p.m. France seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Mathews
Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

Joel Wolcott
Commission Secretary